

ADVERTISEMENT,

CONCERNING

Some *Mistakes* in the late Proposals for Printing a
Pretended *Compleat History of England, &c.*

THe Persons who publish'd the above said Proposals, having been so Disingenious as to Reflect upon the Undertakers of *The General History of England, &c.* to be able to make, for their Detracting from the Judgment of such Great Authors as Sir *Walter Raleigh*, who wrote the History of the *World*, from the Creation to his own Time, (though the latter Part was unhappily destroy'd;) *Sleidan*, *Thuanus*, *Mariana*, *Buchanan*, *Mezeray*, &c. some of whom undertook and Finish'd the General Histories of all *Europe*, and others wrote the History of their own Countries. So that if there be any thing in their Reflexions, it strikes directly at the Performances of those Celebrated Authors; and therefore what has been done already by so many distinct Persons, we hope none will think impossible to be done by another.

But such is the Honesty of these *Wise Undertakers*, that they falsely charge us, with promising to run through all the Changes from the Flood, to this very Day, in the Compass of One poor Year: Whereas it is plain, that by our Proposals for Printing *The General History of England, &c.* Written by Mr. *Tyrrel*, we only promis'd the First Part should be finish'd within Six Months; which we believe may be perform'd about that time, the Author having long since prepared Materials for this Great Work.

And whereas the said *Undertakers* do think it a mighty Advantage to have their History done by several Authors already Printed; others more Judicious are afraid, that such Patching together of Authors, will not only make their Work more Tedious, but also less of a Piece, and more Confus'd: And though they hugely Value themselves upon their Design of Re-printing Mr. *Milton*, *Daniel*, *Habington*, Sir *Thomas Moor*, Sir *Francis Bacon*, Lord *Herbert*, Sir *John Heyward*, and Mr. *Camden*; all which Books are in most Gentlemen's Studies already, and Common in Book-sellers Shops; the Reader is desired to take notice, That we shall make use (as we promis'd at the first) not only of all that is Good and Material, but of many more, which are very scarce to be had; and shall also consult the Manuscripts in both Universities, Sir *John's* Library, &c. relating to this Subject. And we shall be oblig'd to the same in that sort of Learning.

In the next place, we shall shew you, That the Design of these *Undertakers* is very far from making a *Compleat History of England*, as they pretend, and that for these Reasons.

As to Mr. *Milton's* History of *England*, though it must be acknowledg'd to be written like a Scholar, as indeed he was, yet his Style is not so correct in *English*, as it is in *Latin*; and the whole Work, (except the First Book, concerning the *British Kings*,) is contracted into too narrow a Compass, especially in the Reigns of the *Saxon Kings*. But that which is worse than all this, is, That either out of Negligence, or on purpose, he has given us no Account at all of the *Fundamental Constitution* of our Government, nor of the Custom of *Succession* to the Crown in those Times; nor yet of the *Witena-Gemots*, or Great Councils of the Clergy and Laity, nor of the Laws then made. And whether, out of his Aversion to Kingly Government, or for some other Reason, he has given us a very short and dry Relation of the Glorious Reigns of King *Egbert*, *Alfred*, *Edward the Elder*, *Athelstan*, &c. being as Great and Valiant a Race of Princes as ever sat upon the *English Throne*. And lastly, out of Prejudice to the most Ancient Church-Government by *Bishops*, he has omitted mentioning the Foundations of the *Bishopricks* of *England*, calling them, by way of Contempt, *Raking into Cathedral Registers*; besides his passing over in silence, so many Great and Noble Monasteries then erected, as Monuments of the Piety of those Dark Times.

As for their next Author, Mr. *Daniel*, though it cannot be deny'd but that He is a faithful Historian, and not liable to so many Exceptions as the former, yet there is not only wanting in him that smooth and polite way of Writing which many Gentlemen are now Masters of, but he is also too short in several Transactions, as well Military as Civil, especially relating to our Great Councils, or Parliaments, as also to the many Excellent Laws made in those Reigns he writes of, not only for Reformation of several Abuses in the State, but likewise for the better Securing the Liberties and Properties of the People of this Kingdom.

As for their next Period, viz. from the Reign of King *Edward III.* to that of King *Edward IV.* exclusive, which makes up about Sixty Years, and contains the Reigns of the Three Kings of the House of *Lancaster*; these Undertakers are forced to confess, That (for want of better Authors to supply those Reigns) they intend to have them new written. The Reader therefore is desired to consider (before he subscribes to their Proposals) whether he is not oblig'd blindly to trust the Learning and Judgment of that Unknown Pen who is a-new to draw those Reigns, since these Undertakers have not thought fit to give us the Names of any of the Authors they intend to make use of in them, any more than for the Lives of Queen *Mary*, King *James I.* King *Charles I.* and *II.* as
also

also the late King *James*; especially the Two last Reigns, they having never been yet written, require an Author of more than Ordinary Judgment and Integrity.

But to proceed to the rest of the Historians mention'd by these Undertakers; though Mr. *Habington's* History of King *Edward IV.* be writ in a florid Style, yet there are so many Considerable Transactions in that Reign, which are omitted by him, and may be found in *Comines*, and others, that it requires a more exact Account; its true indeed, the Undertakers there tell us, That this *Life* is excellently well written by Mr. *Habington* and *Others*, which *Others* if they intend to Re-print, they would have done well to have told us who they were.

As for the Reigns of King *Edward the V.* and *Richard the III.* written by Sir *Thomas Moer*, (not to derogate from the Worth and Learning of that Great Man) his Stile is not only grown Obsolete, but it ought also to be consider'd, whether Sir *Thomas*, writing that History above Forty Years ago, may be taken as an impartial Witness of Matter of Fact. The Death of those Princes, may be taken as an impartial Witness of Matter of Fact. The Report of *Moer*, as the Third, has prov'd Sir *Thomas* to have been mistaken in several Accounts he has given us of that Reign.

As for the Lord *Bacon's* History of King *Henry the VII.* tho' it be written like a States-man, yet being done purely for one single Design, to make him appear the Wisest and most Politick Prince that ever Reign'd in *England*, it is no wonder if it be deficient in many Memorable Passages, especially if they may prove reflecting on that King's Justice or Clemency.

The Lord *Herbert's* History of King *Henry the VIII.* be writ like that Great Man he was, yet because the Roughness and Obscurity of his Stile, it is too Prolix to be Reprinted in a Body of *English* History.

We will not say much of Sir *John Heynes's* Life of King *Edward the VI.* since besides the obsolescence of the Stile, it is likewise too much contracted in many Particulars relating to those great Transactions that happen'd in that Reign both in Church and State; as you may find in *Bishop Gwynn's Annals*, *Doctor Heynes*, and *Doctor Burnet* (now Lord Bishop of *Salisbury*) the Histories of the Reformation.

As for Sir *Thomas's* Annals of Queen *Elizabeth*, tho' it must be own'd to be a great Work, yet these Undertakers propose a new Translation of it, (which is very much to be doubted) however that must be left to the Judgment of that unknown Translator, how far it is like to prove better than the former; yet after all this, many things may still be wanting to make it a History of that Reign, especially in Affairs relating to *Scotland*; that Author being too Partial to the Memory of *Mary*, who had rais'd him; so that he was oblig'd to apologise for it, in a Letter he had formerly given a more just Account of those Transactions, as you may see at Large in the said Bishop of *Salisbury's* Reflection upon *Monfieur Varillas's* History.

So that, tho' it be granted to be a difficult Work; yet certainly 'tis a very necessary one, to give the World a New, and a more perfect Body of our *English* History.

And whereas some have thought fit to Cavil at our Dating the *Epocha* of our History from the Flood; the Author Mr. *Tyrrell*, desires to have that Expression understood in the like favourable Sense, as Mr. *Cambden*, Mr. *Milton*, with other Foreign Writers, who have deriv'd the Original of their own particular Nations from one of the Sons of *Noah*.

But whereas the said Undertakers make such a Noise about the Effigies of the Kings, Medals and Inscriptions; As for the first, we value them not, since it is well enough known there can be nothing added of that kind, more than one may buy at any Picture-Shop for a Shilling: Nor can there be any entire Collection made of them, from Originals, before *Henry the VII.* And as for those Effigies upon their Tombs in *Westminster-Abby*, and other Places, they are either so imperfect, that no true Draught can be taken of them: Or else being made after their decease, no Man can be certain whether they resemble them or not.

But as for the Coins, divers of which indeed contain rough and imperfect Figures of our Kings, those that are curious, may see the whole Series of them in *Cambden's Britannia* lately publish'd: and in *Speed's* Chronicle.

As for Inscriptions, all such as are necessary for our Design, shall be mention'd in their due place, as far as will consist with our History, with References where they may be found.

To conclude, we may suppose, if the Great Undertakers of this pretended Compleat History, can but receive Thirty Shillings for their First Volume, (as they demand in their Proposals) they will be so far on the right side of the Hedge, that it will be no matter to make the World further acquainted either with their Authors or Materials. We could make many more Animadversions on their Design, but think these sufficient at present.

Henry Rhodes,
John Dunton,
John Salusbury,
John Harris.